

**MINUTES
NEIGHBORHOOD ENHANCEMENT COMMISSION**

**REGULAR MEETING
Wednesday, April 7, 2004
3rd Floor, One Civic Center**

Present: Chairman John Schultz
Vice Chair Patty Badenoch
Commissioner Dick Kiesell
Commissioners Nancy Wendorf (arrived early)

Absent: Commissioner John Horowitz

Staff Present: Raun Keagy, Joanie Mead

CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

A regular meeting of the Neighborhood Enhancement Commission was called to order at 5:33 PM and members were present as stated above.

APPROVAL OF 1/4/04 and 2/4/04 MEETING MINUTES

COMMISSIONER KIESELL MOVED THAT THE MINUTES BE APPROVED AS WRITTEN. VICE CHAIR BADENOCH SECONDED THE MOTION. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

UPDATE REGARDING THE RANCHO CABALLOS NEIGHBORHOOD PROJECT

Sonnie Stevens, a representative of the Rancho Caballos Neighborhood, updated the Commission on the grant given to the neighborhood last October. The neighborhood is a non-HOA subdivision. They do, however, voluntarily assess the homes in the subdivision and maintain an account for repairs and activities in the neighborhood. Ms. Stevens thanked the commission for their support and specifically Vice Chair Badenoch for her visit to the neighborhood.

Ms. Stevens reported that the project was a huge success. The neighborhood coordinated with the Scottsdale School District for improvements to some of the district's standpipes as a part of this project. The neighborhood made the decision to make other necessary repairs at their own expense while the lines were exposed and accessible. This included the removal of oleander roots and plants along the line and a re-joining of old pipes joints along the line. The neighborhood also installed 57 gaskets as a part of their side of the grant. The repairs resulted in improved water delivery in the last irrigation session. A 12-year old neighbor did the design and welding on the project under his father's supervision.

Vice Chair Badenoch congratulated the neighborhood on their unprecedented effort in coordinating the project. She indicated she would like to see other neighborhood groups come and report on the completion of the projects.

Commissioner Wendorf indicated that it is suggested that they return and share the information but asks staff if they could request that the results be presented formally to the

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commission. Ms. Meade responded that when a neighborhood requests reimbursement at the end of a project, they are asked to provide after photos. They could be invited to come to the next commission meeting. Staff can also pass around the after photos, which would allow the commission to see the completed work. Chairman Schultz agreed that five or ten minutes is not too much to ask considering the amount of money granted.

Commissioner Wendorf expressed that she would like to see successful groups and projects promoted. Perhaps the development of a referral system, with a monetary or non-monetary recognition of the referring neighborhood, might be something the commission might want to consider.

Commissioner Badenoch mentioned that she would like to see a temporary sign on each project that indicates that it is a project that is supported by the Neighborhood Enhancement Commission. Chairman Schultz indicated that he would like to see even a permanent sign attached to three or four projects that are deemed as the best projects of the year. Commissioner Wendorf suggests a recognition day for neighborhoods that complete projects.

Ms. Meade suggested that some of these participants be invited to the orientation workshop to help explain how the process can be handled.

UPDATE ON THE REBUILDING TOGETHER PROJECT

Mr. Keagy addressed the commissioners and explained that there had been some possible confusion over the funding of the Rebuilding Together project. He indicated that the commission had earmarked funds in support of this event. This project, formally called Christmas in April, has been supported by the commission for the last five years. Mr. Keagy made the assumption that this project was going to be funded by the commission. The group needed to move forward because of the timing of their activities. The decision was made to disburse the funds based on the fact that it had historically been funded by the commission and the commission had earmarked the funds in earlier planning sessions. Because a meeting was not held last month, it was not on the agenda.

Commissioner Shultz asked how many years it had been funded by the commission. Mr. Keagy and Ms. Meade responded that it was two years as Rebuilding Together and three years as Christmas in April. Commissioner Wendorf indicates that the program has been for as long as she had been on the commission – two terms.

Commissioner Schultz indicates that he supports the efforts in that program and the decision that was made and Commissioner Wendorf echoed that sentiment. Commissioner Badenoch and Commissioner Kiesell each indicated that they agree with the decision. Staff apologized for not going about this in the proper manner.

Ms. Meade summarized the plans for Rebuilding Together this year. The project this year is assisting three homeowners who are elderly, low income and have some disability. They are all widows in their 80's and very nice people. There were referred through either the

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emergency housing repair fund, Foundation for Senior Living, Housing Rehab Program and sometimes through the Senior Center or Police Department. The project is also helping Girls Ranch this year. Ms. Meade passed out information showing the sponsors of the event and the Scottsdale residents who will benefit from the projects.

There were weather issues that affected the plans for the weekend of April 3rd. Groups participating in the program were given the option to complete their project on the 3rd or to delay their project until the 17th of April. Discount Tire decided to complete their project on April 3rd.

The Discount Tire project was to benefit Virginia and her cat "Precious". Virginia's house was in disrepair and needed considerable attention. Discount Tire staff coordinated the interior and exterior painting, steam cleaning of carpets, replacement of kitchen cabinets, countertops and appliances as well as plumbing repair. Forty Discount Tire volunteers worked on the project and raised funds for Virginia through their jean day fundraiser. The money was used to buy new bedding, draperies, tablecloths, chair cushions, placemats, napkin rings and a microwave. While all the work was being completed on Virginia's house, they sent her to a beauty salon for a makeover. As the project was coming to a close, they found and hung a quilt made by Virginia's granddaughter and filled her new refrigerator and pantry with food.

Ms. Meade reported that Discount Tire employees organized the entire operation down to mapping out where each book on Virginia's bookshelf would be replaced. Their efforts were extraordinary. Ms. Meade also reported that Discount Tire employees have decided to 'adopt' Virginia and see to other needs as they become evident.

Commissioner Schultz indicated that he would like to recognize Discount Tire formally for their efforts as it so directly relates to the Commission's mission. He also suggested that perhaps money from Rock the House could be used to help finish up the landscaping.

Commissioner Wendorf mentioned that she would like to see video documentation of a project like this in the future.

Ms. Meade invited the commissioners to come out to any of the projects planned for the weekend of April 17th.

UPDATE ON CODE ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITIES AND ENHANCEMENTS (A.R.S. 38-431.02)

Mr. Keagy distributed a copy of regarding the proposed zoning ordinance text amendment. It has been in place for the property maintenance ordinance for about a year and a half and it has worked effectively. He explained that this issue would be considered by the Planning Commission the following Wednesday and then it would move on to the City Council.

Mr. Keagy distributed a flow chart for compliance complaints. He explained how the complaints flow through the system now and what changes would be made. He indicated

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that currently the city can issue a civil citation to the party in violation for non-compliance and send the violator to city court. This is a lengthy process.

The new system would allow for an administrative citation with an automatic fine attached to be issued for zoning ordinance issues. This fine could be reduced at an administrative hearing if the property comes into compliance by the date of the hearing, normally scheduled two weeks from the date of the citation. Mr. Keagy stressed that the City is not in the business of generating revenue but of gaining compliance.

This proposed plan was considered at an open house and Scottsdale residents voiced concerns regarding repeat offenders and chronic violators. Fines can be increased, but chronic violators only repeat the cycle over and over. The idea was brought up that a repeat offender could be automatically sent to court rather than run through each step again. That will be part of the discussion with the planning commission.

The City can clean the property and place a lien on it, but the lien is not paid unless the property is sold. This is currently the only recourse for the city. Other cities have gone to using collection agencies. The City is looking for a way to more aggressively pursue and change the behavior of the repeat or chronic violators.

Commissioner Badenoch asked what the time frame for the action was. Mr. Keagy explained that it depended on whether or not the changes would take council action or if modifications can take place without the council approval.

In response to questions from Commissioners, Mr. Keagy explained that about 90% of people cited come into compliance after the first notice.

Mr. Keagy reported that the code and zoning enforcement efforts are increasing and recently a proactive campaign of one neighborhood was completed resulting in the identification of 251 violations at 202 properties. 115 of the violations were for high grass and weeds.

There has been a realignment of code inspectors. Five of eight of the inspectors have been reassigned south of Indian Bend. One new inspector was hired. Staffing for code enforcement is scheduled to increase to ten code enforcement inspectors by July if the council passes the action as expected. There is a possibility, if a proposed protect and preserve tax passes, that the number will increase to 12.

Mr. Keagy gave a presentation to the commission on the computerized complaint tracking system. He demonstrated how the system allows quick access to the history and resolution of complaints at a certain property as well as the status of pending cases. Another component of the new system is a customer satisfaction survey.

NEXT MEETING DATE AND FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

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The next meeting of the Neighborhood Enhancement Commission will be held on May 5, 2004 at 5:30 PM.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 7:06 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Julie Conway
Recording Secretary